

village Connect

August/September 2011



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From the editor



Hello Readers

The villages go a bit quiet in the second half of July; there are always fewer events going on once the schools break up and families take off on holiday.

Things pick up again in August, though, as you'll see from the diary on page 10. And on page 7 you can read about four quite different music events happening around the region.

Needless to say there's also plenty laid on for the kids, far too much to mention here; see our pick of the activities available on page 6.

We have an interesting mix of guided walks for you to enjoy on page 3; the shortest is a gentle stroll around Barrow-upon-Soar, the longest a 10-mile hike around some truly lovely countryside on the east side of the county.

Those of you looking beyond the holiday season to new challenges and interests for the autumn should check out pages 4 and 5 for a few pointers.

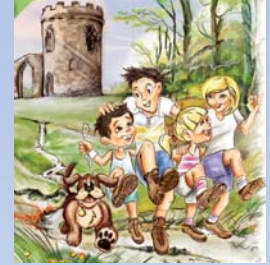
And last, but not least, on page 9 we have information about the **East Midlands Food & Drink Festival in October**, for which we have **five pairs of tickets to give away**; make sure you enter the draw in time to be in with a chance of winning!

Louise

Cover page photograph:

Canal Lane, near Long Clawson. © Copyright Mat Fascione

Take strides to raise funds



The **Vale of Belvoir Lions** are expecting a good turnout at their **Belvoir Castle Fun Run on Saturday 3 September**, which will help raise funds for RNLI, Help for Heroes and local charities.

Walkers, runners and wheelchair users can choose between a 5km and 10km circuit, both of which will take them through the private grounds of the Belvoir Castle Estate. And family and friends will be able to cheer them on from specific viewing areas around the castle grounds. A snack shop, barbecue and refreshments will be available. The event starts at 10am.

The entry fee is £10 adults, £5 for under-16s, £25 for a family of 2+2. The spectators fee is £3 for adults and £1 for under-16s.

Visit www.belvoircastlefunrun.org.uk for details and to register.

The **LOROS Annual Walk on the Wildside** takes place on **Sunday 18 September**. Here, too, participants have a choice, of 12 or 6 miles, both starting and finishing at Severn Trent Visitor Centre, **Cropston**. Start times are 9.30am for the 12 miler (which will go through Bradgate Park, Swithland Wood and Swithland village) and 10.30am for the 6 miler which also goes through Bradgate Park. Everyone will get a goody bag containing a bottle of Swithland water, a banana and a high energy bar to help them on their way. A medal plus a certificate will be sent out to all who send in their sponsorship money.

Lively warm-up sessions, special guests and cheerleaders should help put everyone in a festive spirit, and there'll also be a barbecue.

To register free, call 0116 231 8431 or visit www.loros.co.uk/ fundraising for more information and a printable registration form. You can also turn up on the day and pay a donation to LOROS to enter the walk.

Bronze award for slimming consultant

Helping people achieve their dreams, especially when it comes to losing weight, is no mean achievement. Which is why local Slimming World Consultant **Helen Maddams** is delighted to have won a bronze award two months in a row for her group in Rearsby.

"Watching someone change from having no confidence, being embarrassed about their size and wearing shapeless clothes to someone who looks and feels great, brings its own rewards on a daily basis" she says. "But to have your work recognised in this way is a very proud moment for me. And now, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the members, we have been able to offer a second session starting at 5.30pm. I would never have believed one year ago that I would be where I am now and it is the most amazing feeling in the world."

In the past year Helen has helped members lose more than 138 stone making Rearsby one of the best weight losing areas in the country.

Helen's group meets at the Horse and Groom Skittle Alley in Rearsby on Wednesday evenings (5.30 & 7.30pm). See advert on page 3 for contact information.



Sky Ride, Leicester's biggest family bike ride
SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST 2011

Join the ride

Take a guided ride into the city from one of these Sky Ride start points (every half hour from 09.30-12.30).

- Watermead Country Park North, Syston**
- County Hall, Glenfield**
- Glen Hills Library/Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground, Glen Parva**

For information about cycling in Leicestershire, visit www.leics.gov.uk/cycling or call 0116 305 7885.





Where will your bike take you?

Guided summer walks



All images © Copyright Mat Fascione

If you like walking but would rather follow someone's lead than go it alone with an OS map, here are a few local guided walks you can join over the next few weeks.

Charnwood Forest & Barrow-upon-Soar

Blue Badge Guide **Colin Crosby** of **Colin Crosby Heritage Tours** is leading a couple of walks in the Charnwood area in August.

The first, on **Sunday 7 August**, is to the **Outwoods in Charnwood Forest** and starts from Moat Road Car Park, on the edge of Loughborough at 2pm. Allow around 2½ hours for this 3-4 mile walk which will give you superb views across the valleys of the River Soar, the River Trent, and Loughborough itself.

The following **Saturday, 13 August**, Colin will be leading a gentle two-hour stroll around **Barrow-upon-Soar**, leaving from Holy Trinity Church in the centre of the village at 2pm. Along the way, you'll discover lots about the history of this fascinating village, which has many interesting features such as Bishop Beveridge House, Barrow Deep Lock and the Old Mens Hospital, as well as extensive jitties which are probably the remnants of a medieval street system.

Both walks costs £4 per person, or £3 if paying in advance. To book a place on either, phone Colin on (0116) 2611576 or email him at colin@crosbyheritage.co.uk.

Wymeswold & Hallaton

On Monday evenings in August and September, Jon Charley will be leading walks around **Wymeswold**. The exact route will be decided on the night. Just turn up at St Mary's Church Lych Gate at 6.30pm. Dogs and children are welcome and strong shoes are advised. **For more information, phone 01509 881664.**

On Saturday **27 August**, you can join a 10-mile guided walk on the eastern side of the county. Starting at **Hallaton**, it will take you through undulating countryside and quiet lanes passing through **Medbourne** and **Nevill Holt**. The route follows Walk 2 from LCC Medbourne Parish Walks leaflet (see www.leics.gov.uk/countywalks). Bring a packed lunch, your dog if you wish, and be ready for mud and stiles!

The walk starts at 10am and costs £2, payable on the day. For details of the start point and to book (essential), phone Leicestershire County Council on 0116 305 7655.



REARSBY

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Get on course for the autumn

If you're planning to enrol on any of Leicestershire's adult learning courses in the autumn, now's the time to do so to be sure of your place. Subjects you can study cover

Languages English & Maths
Family Learning Computing & ICT
Visual/performing arts Sport & Fitness

Most classes start in the week beginning **19 September**. There are six learning centres in the north east region of the county. They are:

Bottesford Community College (01949 844199), **Longslade CC Birstall (0116 267 3389)**, **Moira Centre Loughborough (0116 305 5629)**, **Melton Mowbray Library (0116 305 7806)**, **Rawlins CC Quorn (01509 6228260)**, **Roundhill CC Thurmaston (0116 269 5812)**.

You can also call **0800 988 0308** about courses at any of the centres or visit www.leics.gov.uk/golearn and search for a course you are interested in.



Training company seeks rural venues

A Leicester-based training company is bringing its growing range of courses to venues in rural Leicestershire and Rutland, and is offering free places, or will pay a fee, to organisations which would like to host them.

Access Training (Train Your School) Ltd was founded over 12 years ago to provide courses for the education sector nationally. Originally specialising in courses to help non-teaching staff working with primary school children, and more recently for staff working in secondary schools, it now also offers more generic courses such as first aid, health and safety, risk assessment, and food safety. "These courses are suitable for any kind of commercial or non-commercial organisation", says co-director and founder of the company, **Catherine Bolton**.

"Our course hosting scheme has proved very popular with schools, and we are now pleased to be able to offer it to businesses looking for a cost-efficient way of training their staff. Provided they have a room big enough



to accommodate 20 people (15 for first aid), they could host one of our courses and either receive complimentary places for their own staff, or a fee for doing so."

Courses at local public venues are already planned. The first is a one-day first aid training course suitable for parents and child care professionals in **Rearsby** on **26 August** (see advert, page 5). And in the autumn, a series of courses aimed at primary and secondary school staff will be held at Beaumanor Hall in **Woodhouse**. Topics in the series include 'Managing Children's Behaviour in Wet Playtimes' and 'Including Children in the Playground' for primary school staff, and 'Effective Behaviour Management' for teachers and cover supervisors in secondary schools.

To discuss any of the courses mentioned, or to host one on your own premises, call Catherine or Steve on **0116 241 5801**

DEBT PROBLEMS?

Carbane Insolvency is a leading provider of confidential advice on debt problems however serious, so if you are struggling with credit cards, loans or mortgage repayments, don't leave it too late

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Home learning: is it for you?



Distance learning, also known as home learning and open learning, has become a popular way of studying for a new qualification, a new career, or just for fun. **Gill Riley of Tranqui Therapies** has experience of working for a professional qualification in this way. Here she explains the advantages and some of the issues to be aware of.

Having qualified as a reflexologist in 2006, I wanted to gain qualifications in other complementary therapies in order to start my own business. But many of the courses I found involved studying in the evening or weekends, or travelling some distance for a one or two-day intensive course. Then I came across home learning and signed up for courses offered by **BSY** (www.bsygroup.co.uk) and **the School of Natural Health Sciences** (www.naturalhealthcourses.com).

The big advantage of distance learning for me was that I could choose when and how often I studied. My particular courses had no time limits for completion which suited me while I was setting up my new business. And at the end of each course I was awarded professional, recognised qualifications.

Distance learning is great way of gaining skills and qualifications whilst working

around family and work commitments. Many providers offer flexible start dates, course material by email or online, and some allow you to complete the final examinations in your own home. Before deciding home learning is definitely for you, however, there are a number of issues you need to consider:

- Do I work well on my own? Although support is available these courses do require a certain amount of self discipline.
- Will the course I want to do meet all my needs? Some courses do not lend themselves to distance learning, eg practical courses such as reflexology which require tuition in specific techniques and 'hands on' training.
- Will my course be 'recognised'? Some professional organisations do not accept qualifications obtained through distance learning courses.

There are many home learning course providers covering a wide variety of leisure, academic and vocational subjects. They include the National Extension College (www.nec.ac.uk), the Open University (www.open.ac.uk), UK Open Learning (www.uk-open-learning.com) and International Correspondence Schools (www.icsslearn.co.uk)

Kickboxing & Kung Fu in Rutland



The **Leicestershire Kickboxing and Kung Fu Club** offers classes for all ages and abilities on a pay-as-you-go basis. Classes in Kickboxing, Kung Fu & Kickboxercise are offered at the following times and venues:

Sunday: Scout Hall, Grampian Way, Oakham, 5.30-6.30pm juniors, 6.30-8pm seniors

Monday: Catmose Sports Centre, Oakham, 7-8.30pm

Thursday: Leisure centre, Market Deeping, 6.30-8pm

Friday: Community College Sports, Hall Uppingham from 7-8pm

The club has been very successful this year, winning 16 trophies at the **BCKA National Competition** in Corby in May. The 12 fighters competed in Points Fighting, Continuous Kickboxing and Sets & Weapons.

To join the club or for more information, contact **Brent Penniston** on 01664 562286 or email pennistonbrent@hotmail.com.

access
training

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We are holding a one-day
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Access Training (Train Your School) Ltd:

Tel/Fax: 0116 241 3203/0116 241 5801
Email: steve@trainyourschool.co.uk
www.trainyourschool.co.uk

Horticulture at Brooksby

Brooksby Melton College hosts a range of flexible short courses throughout the year covering garden design, flower arranging and horticulture workshops. They are aimed not only at people who wish to pursue a career in horticulture, but also at leisure gardeners who wish to have their knowledge formally assessed.

The courses, which are run from the Brooksby Campus, include floristry, flower arranging, garden design and courses run by the Royal Horticultural Society.

For details, call 01664 855444
www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk

To advertise in
Village Connect
call 01664 424254
or visit
www.villageconnect.co.uk

What are we doing today?

A few ideas for keeping the children busy in the holidays

Knight School at Bosworth Battlefield

Billed as a 'fun-packed day of medieval mayhem' the Bosworth Knight School gives 8-11 year olds the chance to dress up in medieval armour and find out what it takes to be a Knight of the Realm. The event will run on **4 and 16 August** and costs £25 per child. Only 15 places are available on each day, so early booking is essential.

Refreshments will be provided, however children must bring their own packed lunch and wear protective footwear and waterproof coat.

For more information on this or other events at Bosworth Battlefield, call 01455 290 429 or visit www.bosworthbattlefield.com

Circus Skills at Leicestershire Libraries

To tie in with this year's Summer Reading Challenge, Leicestershire Libraries are running a series of 'Have a go' workshops in juggling, plate-spinning and other circus skills. The events are free and tickets are available from the library. Among the libraries participating are:

Birstall Library Tue 16 Aug, am. 0116 305 8756.

Loughborough Library Mon 22 Aug, am. 0116 305 2420.

Shephed Library Tue 9 Aug, am. 0116 305 3678.

Melton Library Mon 22 Aug, pm. 0116 305 3646.

More information available at www.leics.gov.uk/circusstars.



Twycross Zoo

www.twycrosszoo.org

As well as the regular animal feeding and training talks, the zoo will be hosting a range of activities and themed weeks during the holidays.

It is also running a Zooniversity (**15-19 August**) which aims to give 14-16 year olds the chance to go behind the scenes at the zoo, explore different zoo roles and gain a real understanding of how a zoo works. It costs £110 per person per week (£95 for members) and runs from 10am to 4pm each day.

To enrol for Zooniversity or to find out about the themed weeks, call 01827 880988.



Rutland Water

www.rutlandwater.org.uk

Children can become nature detectives from **8 to 11 August** (10am to 3pm), with a different theme each day: Brilliant Bugs, Amazing Ospreys, Pond Dipping and Bird Safari. Cost: £25 per day per child or £75 for all four days.

To book, contact the education team on 01572 770651.

Wednesday 31 August is Family Fun Day, with ponding dipping or bug hunting on offer hourly from 10am to 2pm. £10 per child (no need to book).

Arts & crafts in Loughborough & Melton

Charnwood Museum is putting on lots of art and craft workshops during August, suitable for children aged 3+. Sessions include Medieval Swords and Shields (**2 August**), Print a Picture! (**4 August**), Stunning Seaside Stencils (**18 August**) and Your Favourite Animal Mask (**30 August**). The hourly sessions cost £2.50 and are run throughout the day.

Call 01509 233754 for times and to book. Visit www.leics.gov.uk/charnwoodmuseum.

At Melton Carnegie Museum in Melton, there are also workshops to keep the kids busy. These workshops are suitable for children 5-12 and are free. Sessions throughout the day.

4 August: Messy Mask Making

11 August: 101 Things to Do With... how many things can you make with recycled items

18 August: Planet of the Puppets

25 August: Fun and Games (make a classic board game)

Call 0116 305 3860 for more information or visit www.leics.gov.uk/meltonmuseum.



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Rainforest themed CD is now available to buy. See our website for details

Let the music play

A round-up of local music events happening through August

Music & Beer Festival, Hose, 6 August, 12 noon-11pm

This one-day music event combined with art and craft activities will be held on the Hose Village Hall Field. It is being run by the 'Forever Faye Art Foundation' (FFAF), a registered charity dedicated to the memory of Faye Cree, 17, a talented young artist who is sadly no longer with us. (Read more about the charity below).

There will be a great range of music, including some well-known, talented young acts from the East Midlands who have recently played Glastonbudget and will appear at the Summer Sundae Festival in Leicester. One of these bands, led by Jack Kenworthy, got through to the national finals of Live Fest, a showcase for the finest upcoming bands in the UK, at the O2 in London. There will be a bar, and food will be available. Admission is £5, concessions £2.50. **For more information, email kcree@tiscali.co.uk.**

Tea with a Twist, Launde Abbey, 7 August, 2.30-6pm

Award-winning Celtic band Govannen will be performing at this event, which is part of Launde Abbey's programme of family and musical entertainment. It will take place in the Abbey gardens (in a marquee) and should be a great day out for the family as you can take a picnic to eat in the gardens before the music starts, or have lunch in the restaurant. There will be a bouncy castle for children and the Launde Shop and Chapel will be open.

The entry price of £10 (children get in free) includes a scone with cream and jam, a piece of cake and tea, coffee or squash. There will also be a bar selling Pimms, wines, beers and soft drinks. **To book, phone 01572 717254 or visit www.launde.org.uk.**

Music in the Meadow, Ashby Folville, 27 August, 6-11pm

The venue for this annual concert in aid of local charities is the grounds of Ashby Folville Manor. Headlining the concert will be the Don Watson Band, who are flying in especially from the States. There will also be two top local bands: Dixie Jack and Rock Bottom.

All the proceeds from the event will be split between Steps (70%), The Matt Hampson Foundation (20%) and Ashby Folville village charities (10%).

Tickets cost £15 in advance, £17.50 on the gate for adults, and £5 for under 16s. **For more information and how to book (there are special offers for groups), visit www.musicinthemeadow.co.uk.**

Festival of Rainbows, Syston, 26-29 August

Rainbows Hospice will benefit from this family music festival being held in the spacious grounds of The Gate Hangs Well Pub/Restaurant over the August bank holiday weekend. The programme includes live music by local bands, a charity auction and a dance display. There will also be a bouncy castle for the kids, trade stalls, and an outside bar and barbecue. Camping is available. **For full information, phone Sally on 0116 260 9242.**

Forever Faye Art Foundation

The FFAF was set up by Kate & Phil Cree, Faye's mum and dad, and Liam, her brother. It is in the early stages of development and is building up funds to launch its full programme of activities. Its chief aims are to provide art workshops for rent for established and aspiring artists in all fields (painting, sculpture, ceramics etc), to run after-school art sessions in local schools, to provide art-as-therapy sessions for special groups, and to provide reproduction and website facilities for the commercial selling of art.



Govannen



Music in the Meadow



The Gate Hangs Well

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CHARITY
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& BEER
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MUSIC FOR ALL AGES
ART & CRAFT ACTIVITIES
SAT 6th AUGUST
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CHARITY: FOREVER FAYE ART FOUNDATION SUPPORTING
DOVE COTTAGE & PABLOS HORSE SANCTUARY
ENQUIRIES: KATE - 07910 189833 E-MAIL: kcree@tiscali.co.uk

Harvest time traditions



The custom of giving thanks for a successful harvest dates back to pagan times. In pre-Christian Britain, farmers offered the first sheaf of cut corn to the god of fertility. They believed this would ensure a good harvest the following year. They also believed the last sheaf contained the 'spirit of the corn', and it was common practice to sacrifice an animal when it was cut. Hares were frequently used in this ritual, and models of them were made from the corn. As time went by, 'corn dollies', (which weren't actually dolls and took many different forms), replaced the hares and became symbols for the goddess of the grain. Farmers would keep them in their houses through the winter, before ploughing them back into the first furrow of the new season. This was another way to ensure the continuity of the crop.

The end of the harvest was a time of great celebration in the community, and the horse bringing the last cart-load of corn home was festooned with garlands of flowers and brightly-coloured ribbons.

Celebrating the harvest in the Christian tradition began in 1843, when the reverend Robert Hawker invited his parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. This led to the now familiar custom of home-grown produce from parishioners' farms, gardens and allotments being brought into the church before the harvest service. Today, it's not unusual to see food in tins, packets and jars as well, as many churches use this time of year to collect provisions to distribute to the needy.

A useful guide

A toolkit containing all the information community groups need to hold 'Give and Take Days' has been launched.

Give and Take Days are like swap shops, where people can leave unwanted items for others to pick up for free.

Leicestershire Waste Partnership has launched the free 'how to' guide, to help people stage their own events, reuse unwanted items and help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. It contains helpful hints and tips on a range of issues including how to plan and promote your own event, a poster template and advice on risk assessments.

Guy Jackson, Vice-chairman of the Leicestershire Waste Partnership, said: "Give and Take Days are not only good fun, they provide a chance to pick up some real treasures – for free! They also play a part in helping reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill."

Copies of the toolkit can be obtained from: www.lesswaste.org.uk/index/reuse_toolkit_page.htm or by calling 0116 305 7005.

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Food & Drink Festival returns to Melton



The East Midlands Food and Drink Festival is moving from Brooksby Hall to **Melton Mowbray Cattle Market**. It will take place on **1 & 2 October (10am-5pm)**.

Now in its eighth year, the festival was last held in Melton in 2006, when attendance was thought to have exceeded 22,000. In its first year alone it was the UK's largest regional food festival. In 2006 it won the East Midlands Outstanding Contribution to Tourism award.

New this year will be the 'Vintage Gadget Roadshow', where you can bring your retro kitchen appliances and discover a little bit about their history from experts. There will also be a selection of museum pieces showing how your grandparents used to produce fabulous meals without the help of food processors and appliances. And at the 'Food Through the Ages' display you can find out what people ate as far back as medieval times.

Activities for the kids will include food tasting, competitions, pasta making, bread making and lots more. While for the adults, activities will include demonstrations in breadmaking and a chance to have a go themselves.

Naturally, there will be plenty of local food and drink to taste, including Melton Mowbray Pork pie, Stilton cheese, Melton hunt cake, elderflower cordial, bison, Melton red beer, local sausages, cheese and a host of other delicious foods.

Town centre manager Shelagh Core said: "Bringing the Festival back to Melton will be fantastic for the town. It was still well attended at Brooksby but having it back at the cattle market will make it more accessible for local people. It's a fantastic opportunity for businesses to promote themselves. We hope to run a voucher scheme involving local cafes and as many other businesses as possible to encourage people to visit the rest of the town."



Win tickets to the festival!

We have **FIVE PAIRS** of tickets for the East Midlands Food & Drink Festival to give away. For a chance to win a pair, send your name and contact details to 'Food Festival Draw', Village Connect, 2 Brook House Close, Rearsby, Leicester LE7 4YG. Or email the information to louise@villageconnect.co.uk.

Entries should be sent to arrive no later than **Saturday 27 August**. (Only one entry per household will be accepted.) The first five names drawn after this date will each win a pair of tickets, and will be notified by **Friday 2 September**.

In your garden

by *Helen Osborne of Church View Nursery*



Hello Gardeners,

At this time of year I prefer to be entertaining friends and family in the garden rather than weeding or mowing the lawn. If, like me, you lost a lot of plants over the winter and have gaps where there weren't any before, it's not too late to plant out some large bedding plants like Cleome, or Nicotiana Sylvestris, to give you colour till the first frosts. Cut off the the dead flower heads of perennials in the border like Dianthus (carnations) and Geraniums and they will flower later in September.

It's been a tough year for the lawn, with the cold winter then a very dry spring, so treat it to a liquid fertilizer, suitable for autumn. It's not only the lawn that needs a bit of a boost; if you have summer baskets, or pots, feed them with tomato feed once a week to help the plants flower for longer.

If you grow vegetables, you might have picked all of the broad beans, and have a gap. Clean up the soil, water well and plant spring cabbage, spring cauliflower or leeks.

We've had a lot of insects this year, ideal for swallows and swifts. I get so much pleasure from seeing the birds visit my garden because I feed them. Don't stop feeding now; the adults that have brought up two lots of chicks need it more now to build up for the winter. Always make sure there is water available for them to drink and bathe in. If you look after the birds, they will help to keep the insects away from your plants.

Now is the time to enjoy the garden, a time to re-assess what has worked, and a time to plan what plants to move or to take out later in the year.

Plants of seasonal interest

Monarda On Parade: Vivid pink flowers late August to October, ideal for bees; height 1.2m

Echinacea Tika Torch: Rich orange flowers late July to October; height 1.2m

Agapanthus Blue Dot: Dark green foliage, with large headed blue flowers; height 1.50m

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Diary



AUGUST

- 5 **Dove Cottage, Stathern**, 6.30-9pm. BBQ & Open Gardens. A sociable evening in Dove Cottage's gardens. Tickets £7.50 for a 2-course supper. Book early as limited availability! Tel: 01949 860303.
- 6 **Hose Village Hall field**, 12noon-11pm. Music & beer festival. See page 7.
- 7 **Launde Abbey**, East Norton, 2.30-6pm. Tea & musical entertainment. See page 7.
- 19 **Waltham on the Wolds Village Hall**, 7 for 7.30pm. Kudos at the Movies & Musicals. An evening of song and dance from stage and screen. Tickets £7 on door. £6 if booked online at www.wegotickets.com/event/116230.
- 19/21 **Eggleton Nature Reserve, Rutland Water**, Birdfair 2011. The birdwatcher's Glastonbury. Visit www.birdfair.org.uk.
- 20 **Rearsby Village Hall Playing Field**, 8am Car Boot Sale. Tel: 01664 424427.
- 20 **Eastwell**, 11am-5pm. Eastwell Fete. www.eastwellfete.co.uk.
- 20 **Pera Innovation Park**, 7 for 7.30pm. Kudos at the Movies & Musicals. Song and dance from stage and screen. Tickets £9 on door. £8 if booked online at www.wegotickets.com/event/120768.
- 26/29 **Gate Hangs Well, Syston**. Charity music event in aid of the Leicester Rainbows Hospice. See page 7.
- 27 **Ashby Folville Manor grounds**, 6-11pm (gates open 5pm). Music in the Meadow. See page 7.
- 28/29 **Launde Abbey**. Family fun weekend. Craft fair, stalls, entertainment, coffees, lunches and teas, music, games. Car boot sale (Mon). £5 entry per car. Tel: 01572 717254 or visit www.launde.org.uk. To book a car boot pitch or stall, call 01572 718806. Free stalls for charities/church groups.
- 29 **Old Dalby**, from 11am. Old Dalby Day.
- 29 **Beacon Hill Country Park**, 10am-5pm. National Forest Wood Fair. Traditional craft workers and forestry organisations will showcase their work. Practical demonstrations, local food & drink. Visit www.leics.gov.uk/woodfair or www.nationalforest.org. Adults £8, Conc £5, Families £18 (incl. parking and programme). Tel: 01283 551211.

While every effort is made to ensure information in the Diary is correct, Village Connect cannot be held responsible for any errors it contains

See page 4 for holiday activities
See page 3 for guided walks

SEPTEMBER

- 3 **Belvoir Castle**. Fun run. See page 2
- 3 **Woodhouse Eaves**, 2pm. Woodhouse Eaves 23rd Annual Horticultural & Craft Show. Grand Auction of produce at 7pm. All proceeds to charities. Tel: 01509 891163.
- 8 **South Croxton Village Hall**, 7pm. BBC Gardeners Question Time. Bring written questions. Tel: 01664 840 900.
- 10 **Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust**. Annual Ride + Stride. Contact David Knowles: 01509 268354 djpk34@hotmail.com.
- 10 **Swithland**, 2pm. 35th Annual Flower & Vegetable Show. Fun day out for the family. Stalls & displays plus prize draw auction of produce. Tel: 01509 891163.
- 10/11 **Canal Farm Harby** LE14 4BL, 10am-5pm. The Harby Country Show and Working Weekend: an opportunity to see the rural way of life, past and present with ring displays, stalls, ploughing and threshing etc. Visit www.vobmg.co.uk.
- 11 **Stanford Hall, East Leake**. 10am. K9 Capers, Fun Dog Show at Stanford Hall In partnership with the Dogs Trust. Trade stands, car boot, refreshments, prizes. Phone Linzi: 07967 241855.
- 17 **Bottesford VC Hall**, 2pm. Car Treasure Hunt. A family event open to all. Trails can be purchased from the starting point with alternative routes and clues to collect. Food and refreshments available on return. For details email ttkxh6@nottingham.ac.uk.
- 17 **Rearsby Village Hall Playing Field**, 8am (Booters 7.30am). Car Boot Sale. Tel: 01664 424427.

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Beacon Hill Country
Park, 29 August >



< Waltham/Melton
19/20 August

- 17 **Dove Cottage, Stathern**, 1.30pm. Auction & table top sale (viewing from 12 noon). Donations/items welcome w/c 5 Sept. Tel: 01949 860303.
- 17/18 **Waltham on the Wolds**, From 10am. Waltham Charter Fair. £2, children free. Contact: Karen Oliver 01664 464070, walthamcharterfair@hotmail.co.uk.
- 18 **Severn Trent Visitor Centre, Cropston**. Walk on the Wildside: sponsored walk for LOROS. See page 2.
- 25 **Stamford Arts Centre, St Mary's Street, Stamford PE9 4DL**, 10am-4pm. Handmade Craft Market. All products made by local artists, designers & makers. Free entry.

Check www.villageconnect.co.uk for other diary dates. Find us on Twitter or Facebook for even more up to the minute information



[www.twitter/connect_leics](https://twitter.com/connect_leics)



VillageConnect Leicestershire

OCTOBER

- 1/2 **The Cattle Market, Melton Mowbray**, East Midlands Food & Drink Festival. Win tickets to go to this event. See page 9.
- 7 **The Barn @ Manor Farm, Rearsby**, The Poozies in Concert. Tickets in advance only. Phone 01664 424239 for price/time and to book.
- 22/23 **Twyford Village Hall**. Twyford Guild of Artists annual exhibition. More information in next issue.

To get your event listed free of charge, email details to louise@villageconnect.co.uk or use the online form at www.villageconnect.co.uk

Send details of events that have missed the print deadline to louise@villageconnect.co.uk

A room in its own right

The role of the conservatory has changed in recent years. Once a nice-to-have addition to the back of the house – somewhere to put your exotic plants and enjoy the garden from in the summer – today it's a room in its own right, serving a variety of purposes throughout the year. With more and more homeowners choosing to stay where they are rather than move house, it has become essential living space.

For this reason, you need to give a lot of thought to how your new conservatory will look and who will build it, believes **John Hoskins** of **Midland Window Installations in Birstall**. Important questions you need to think about are: What will we use the conservatory for (games room, study, dining room, family room)? Will we need planning permission for it (the size of the land your property sits on will determine this)? Which way will it face (this will have an impact on heating/insulation needs)? What shape will it have?

Many of the questions you will be able to answer easily; some you may not. But an experienced conservatory installer should be able to fill in any gaps. "We always spend time going through customers' queries and concerns when we first visit them, advising on the best options", says John, "The next stage is to draw up a detailed proposal for them to consider. Then, once all the decisions have been finalised and the proposal approved, we carry out a full survey at the property to specify the requirements before any work begins."



To get expert advice on adding a conservatory to your home, call John Hoskins at Midland Window Installations. Tel: 0116 267 6167

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